

**Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)
Scientific Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 10, 2006
Hotel MarMonte
Santa Barbara, California**

8:00 a.m. – 8:20 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions	Dr. Lynda Shapiro, Chair, OCS Scientific Committee Dr. Robert Diaz, Vice-Chair, OCS Scientific Committee Dr. James Kendall, MMS Chief Scientist and Executive Secretary of the OCS SC
8:20 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	MMS Director's Welcome, Presentation, and Discussion	Mr. Greg Gould, Chief, Environmental Division
8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Pacific OCS Region Update	Ms. Ellen Aronson, Regional Manager, MMS Pacific OCS Region
9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	The Energy Policy Act of 2005	Ms. Maureen Bornholdt, Program Manager, Renewable Energy/Alternative Use
9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Report from the last OCS Policy Committee Meeting	Dr. Berry H. Tew, Chair, OCS Policy Committee
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Break		
10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	MMS' Data Management, Requirements, & Discussions	Dr. Mary Boatman, Chemical Oceanographer
10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Impacts of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to the MMS Gulf of Mexico Region	Mr. Joseph Christopher, Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Environment, MMS Gulf of Mexico Region
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch		

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1:00 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.	Some Highlights of the MMS <i>Environmental Studies Program</i> and Our Goal for the Next Day- and-Half	Dr. James Kendall, MMS Chief Scientist and Executive Secretary of the OCS SC
1:20 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Committee Members’ Observations: <i>The National</i> <i>Ocean Research Priorities Plan</i>	Dr. Denise Stephenson Hawk and Dr. Duane Gill
1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Charge to the Discipline Subcommittees	Dr. Robert Diaz, Vice-Chair, OCS Scientific Committee

Physical Sciences, Biology, and Socioeconomic Disciplines meet separately to discuss national and regional studies plans.

	Biology/Ecology or Interdisciplinary	Physical Sciences	Social Sciences
1:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Marine Minerals		Alaska OCS Region
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. BREAK			
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Renewable Energy/ Alternative Use		

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Informal Evening Session on Interesting Local Topics	TBA
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MMS Director's Welcome, Presentation, and Discussion

As advisor to the Director, MMS, the Committee appreciates the opportunity to have a dialogue with the Director on ongoing and future issues, policies, and activities of the Bureau. This exchange not only keeps the Committee apprised of MMS direction but also offers an opportunity for the Committee to provide direct advice and guidance on matters as they relate to the Environmental Studies Program.

Pacific OCS Region Update

Ms. Ellen Aronson, Pacific Regional Manager, will provide an overview of the activities in the Region. Oil and natural gas production from the Region's 43 active leases continues at relatively stable rates. The ESP continues to include studies that support decisions enabling wise management of these activities, including a long-term intertidal biology monitoring program at areas adjacent to active oil and gas facilities and investigations concerning the ecological role that oil and gas platforms play in the regional marine ecology in light of severe depletions of commercial and sports fish. Recently, the prospect of using offshore sand resources has prompted the Region to explore information needs related to these resources, particularly offshore San Francisco Bay.

The Energy Policy Act

This Administration recognized the Nation's need for a comprehensive energy policy as early as 2001 with the National Energy Policy. When President Bush signed the Energy Policy Act into law on August 8, 2005, he committed his Administration to implementing the tools for "dependable, affordable, and environmentally sound production and distribution of energy." As manager of many of the onshore and offshore resources encompassed in the Energy Policy Act, the Department of the Interior plays a major role in implementing this legislation, which Ms. Bornholdt will present.

Report from the last OCS Policy Committee Meeting

Officers of the OCS Scientific Committee and the OCS Policy Committee routinely attend each other's meetings and give brief presentations on the various OCS issues in which they are involved. Mr. Berry (Nick) Tew presented the key discussion items from the OCS Policy November 2005 meeting.

MMS' Data Management, Requirements, and Discussion

Dr. Mary Boatman, Oceanographer in the Environmental Assessment Branch in Herndon, will discuss give a brief background of the Environmental Studies Program information needs and describe how these needs are met through contractual requirements. She will also briefly touch on internal data management issues.

Impacts of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to the MMS Gulf of Mexico Region

Dr. Joe Christopher, Regional Supervisor for the Office of Leasing and Environment in the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, will describe effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on OCS oil and gas activities in the Gulf and will provide a synopsis of environmental studies developed to address information needs resulting from the storms. He will also provide brief updates on oil and gas activities and environmental studies in ultra-deepwater, and the status of offshore LNG ports in the Gulf of Mexico.

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	Biology/Ecology or Interdisciplinary	Physical Sciences	Social Sciences
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Pacific	OPEN ROOM	Gulf of Mexico
9:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. BREAK			
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Alaska	Gulf of Mexico	GOM (continued)
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. LUNCH			
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Gulf of Mexico	Alaska	OPEN ROOM
3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. BREAK			
3:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Biology/Ecology Chairs and MMS Recorder Finalize Recommendations	Physical Sciences Chairs and MMS Recorder Finalize Recommendations	Social Sciences Chairs and MMS Recorder Finalize Recommendations

**Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)
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Friday, May 12, 2006
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8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. Plenary Session
 Opening Comments - Chair, OCS Scientific Committee

8:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Discipline Subcommittee Reports (20 minutes each)

- Biology
- Physical Oceanography
- Socioeconomics
- Open Discussion of Subcommittee Reports

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Break

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Open Discussion of Subcommittee Reports (continued)

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Committee Discussion: Peer-Review and the Environmental Studies Program

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Public Comment

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Committee Business

- Election of Officers
- Items for Letter to the Director
- Emerging Issues/Topics of Interest
- Other Business
- Dates and locations for the next meeting

12:30 p.m. Adjourn the Meeting